

# THE GATEWAY

volume C summer issue 1 ♦ the official student newspaper at the university of alberta ♦ www.thegatewayonline.ca ♦ thursday, 7 may, 2009

## U of A to receive \$125 million for infrastructure stimulus

Provincial and federal governments provide funding to increase employment and foster future strength for postsecondary system

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

Government and university officials gathered on campus Monday morning to announce an infrastructure investment for the University of Alberta and other postsecondary institutions across the province, amounting to \$348 million.

The package is a joint effort between the federal and provincial governments. The federal funds are portioned from the \$2 billion Knowledge Infrastructure Program, a national economic stimulus strategy for Canada's colleges and universities.

"These investments will provide significant short-term job creation [...] They will enable institutions to attract and retain highly skilled workers," said Gary Goodyear, Canada's Minister of State (Science and Technology). "They will also ensure that those at the forefront of cutting edge research and innovation in Canada, our students, researchers, professors, scientists, technicians, all of them, will have the conditions they need to succeed."

The U of A alone will receive more than \$125 million of the funding, more than any other institution in the

province.

"The [funds] will go a long way to helping us catch up with badly needed infrastructure and maintenance upgrading of older facilities," said U of A President Indira Samarasekera. "We now have the ability to open up previously unusable space, remove hazardous materials, increase energy efficiency and undertake important building assessments."

The majority of the money, close to \$95 million, will go towards equipping labs and offices in the Health Research Innovation Facility along 87 Avenue. Additional laboratory space and upgrades of the hood exhaust systems in the Chemistry and Biological Sciences buildings will cost around \$25 million.

Samarasekera explained that these upgrades will help the U of A remain competitive with other postsecondary institutions.

"Graduate students will have more space, which is critical. Our ability to recruit the best faculty and staff will increase. And those who are already here will see an increase in their capacity to develop leading-edge research and discovery learning experiences," she said.

PLEASE SEE **BOOST** ♦ PAGE 2



PETEEYEE

**MAKING IT OFFICIAL** Gary Goodyear and Doug Horner sign over a postsecondary infrastructure stimulus on Monday.

## LRT expansion connects growing campuses

SEAN STEELS  
Senior News Editor

The Edmonton Transit System (ETS) opened two new Light Rail Transit (LRT) stations on 25 April, connecting the University of Alberta's South and North Campuses with speedy, traffic-independent transportation.

The LRT extension, which has been pushing south from North Campus since 2005 and now includes McKernan-Belgravia and South Campus stations, will eventually connect Clareview, in Edmonton's northeast, to the developing Century Park area, in the south end of the city on 23 Avenue.

"This is the beginning of a new system to try to move people more effectively and continue the LRT, which was stalled for a couple of years," said Mayor Stephen Mandel at the grand opening of the two stations.

U of A Vice President (Operations and Finance) Don Hickey was also present for the opening, and stressed the significance of such stations for the future of U of A's operations on South Campus.

"Two faculties have confirmed to date a desire to move to South Campus, one of those being the Faculty of Agriculture, Life Environmental Sciences and the other being the Faculty of Physical Education and

Recreation. That's not just the athletic facilities, but the academic research facilities as well," he added.

"Integral with the Universiade proposal is a need for an athletes' village, which means student residences, and the Go Centre complex, which is a major basketball, volleyball and gymnastics area."

The opening has also brought about changes to the surrounding transit system to better accommodate both students and area residents. Most bus routes operating along 114 Street, with the exception of those providing local service, have already been altered to stop at South Campus, allowing the LRT to complete the trip to North Campus.

As a result of the change, a new express route has also been opened from The Grange station, which lies west of Anthony Henday Trail, to South Campus, and ETS officials anticipate another express route will also be added from West Edmonton Mall in September.

In addition, the elimination of bus routes along 114 Street will relieve stress on ETS's aging and over-extended bus fleet, which has been forced in the last year by Edmonton's growing transportation needs to postpone the retirement of its 798 diesel buses, which have been running for over three decades.

PLEASE SEE **LRT** ♦ PAGE 2

## Tightened provincial budget adds to University funding

MATTHEW SCHOETTLE  
News Staff

The University of Alberta has emerged unscathed from this year's provincial budget, following the announcement on 7 April that postsecondary institutions in the province will see a six per cent increase to their budgets for 2009.

This comes as good news for the U of A, which bases 67 per cent of its 2009-10 projected operating budget, approximately \$555 million on government grants.

University President Indira Samarasekera attributes this increase in funding, amidst a record-breaking provincial deficit, with cuts to natural gas rebates and granting programs, to the government's recognition of the important role the U of A plays in the province.

"We are probably one of the only universities in this country who had a budget increase, not only of six per

cent, but also with money to enroll more students into the system in some key areas. So, in some ways, the government has shown great wisdom, because when the economy recovers, Alberta will have people with the training and education to take up the jobs that will be newly created," she said.

But this wisdom could be short-lived. The provincial government has

been quick to point out that the budget simply allows post-secondary institutions to prepare for smaller grant increases in the years to come.

When asked where specific cut-backs would occur with decreasing grant funding, Phyllis Clark, U of A Vice President (Finance and

Administration), mullied on the potential disconnect between promises made and money to be spent, naming future hires as an area of slowed growth.

PLEASE SEE **BUDGET** ♦ PAGE 3

**"When the economy recovers, Alberta will have people with the training and education to take up the jobs that will be newly created."**

INDIRA SAMARASEKERA  
U OF A PRESIDENT



PETEEYEE

**ALL ABOARD** New LRT stations anticipate the future growth of South Campus.

## Inside

News	1-3
Opinion	4-5
Feature	6
A&E	7-8
Sports	9-10
Comics	11
Classifieds	11



## Two-part miniseries

Mike Kendrick takes us undercover in Alberta's emerging comic-book scene. Bring your Trinity costume.

FEATURE, PAGE 6



## Three-part harmony

Joel Plaskett has a bit of a thing for trinities too, though of the numerical and musical kind. That's cool too.

A&E, PAGE 7



## THE GATEWAY

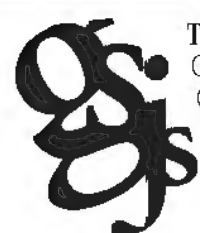
www.thegatewayonline.ca

thursday, 7 may, 2009  
volume C summer issue 1Published since 21 november, 1910  
Circulation 5 000  
ISSN 0845-356XSuite 3-04  
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Gateway Student Journalism Society  
(GSJS), a student-run, autonomous,  
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operated in accordance with the  
Societies Act of Alberta.THE GATEWAY is proud to  
be a founding member of the  
Canadian University Press.

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optical film scanner. Adobe InDesign is used for layout.  
Adobe Illustrator is used for vector images, while Adobe  
Photoshop is used for raster images. Adobe Acrobat  
is used to create PDF files which are burned directly to  
plates to be mounted on the printing press. Text is set in  
a variety of sizes, styles, and weights of **FENICE**, **Joanna**,  
**Kepler** and **Whitney**. The Manitoban is the Gateway's  
sister paper, and we love her dearly, though "not in that  
way." The Gateway's games of choice are Duke Nukem  
Forever and Rune Factory: A Fantasy Harvest Moon.

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## Green initiatives unified with new office

## Office of Sustainability to encourage a campus-wide environmental attitude

**SEAN STEELS**  
Senior News EditorSummer might provide a brief  
window of green on the University  
of Alberta's campus, but the opening  
of the new Office of Sustainability  
will soon help push the colour trend  
to a perennial bloom.Until now, many of the University's  
environmentally friendly initiatives  
have been handled through the depart-  
ment of Facilities and Operations and  
groups such as the Environmental  
Coordination Office of Students and  
the Campus Sustainability Coalition.Len Sereda, Director of Energy  
Management and Sustainable  
Operations within Facilities and  
Operations at the U of A, explained  
that the establishment of the new  
office has been, in part, to help cen-  
tralize these scattered forces."The University has been practicing  
sustainability probably for well over  
30 years—things like energy manage-  
ment, recycling programs and green  
cleaning," Sereda said."What the office is going to do is  
really try and bring all of that together  
from a university-wide perspective  
and to bring coordination and focus  
and expand sustainability to all of  
the U of A's policies, operations, and  
practices."The Office is still in its infant  
stages and searching for a director,  
but a mandate is already underway  
to create a zeitgeist of environmen-  
tally sustainable practices. A primary  
concern in accomplishing that goal is  
ensuring that green practices make  
it into the curriculum. For example,  
students taking math courses might  
deal with problems that reflect cli-  
mate change issues or place an  
emphasis on conservation.The U of A's own green infra-  
structure will also play a valuable  
role in making students aware of

PETE YEE

**THINKING GREEN** Len Sereda wants to change mindsets and not just practices.environmentally friendly practices.  
"We're also looking to use resources  
on campus for experiential working  
opportunities, so if we can use part of  
our facilities and operations services  
as part of teaching or applied research,  
we'd be able, through the office of sus-  
tainability, to either see or create those  
opportunities," Sereda continued."A simple example on that is we  
recently finished construction on the  
Triffo Hall project. We've been using  
that facility to tour various students  
and staff to demonstrate what a sus-  
tainable building is and can be."The recently renovated Triffo Hall,  
Sereda explains, has nearly received  
its gold Leadership in Energy and  
Environmental Design designation,  
and could be used to teach students  
what kind of measures are necessary  
to meet the stringent gold standings.  
Triffo Hall was also honoured recently  
by the Canadian Institute of Steel  
Construction when it received their  
2009 Sustainability Award.The Triffo Hall renovations also  
highlight another important aspect ofenvironmentally sustainable practices  
on campus: cost."Another benefit of our energy  
conservation programs and renova-  
tions is the operations and mainte-  
nance savings we're making on those  
buildings. What doesn't need to be  
spent on the operational side can  
then be forwarded through to the  
University's other programs," Sereda  
said.But while energy conservation has  
a tangible, monetary value, Sereda  
still believes the most important  
investment the University can make  
is in the moral sculpting of its student  
body."We graduate approximately 8000  
students a year, and if we're able to help  
those students graduate with a mind-  
set of sustainability, when they leave,  
they'll have a huge impact locally and  
globally for addressing environmental  
issues," he said."With that many people, we can  
help make environmental sustainabil-  
ity a part of our daily life, our DNA.  
That's the real bottom line."Infrastructure encourages growth  
of knowledge-based economy**BOOST ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**"Tomorrow's prosperity depends on  
our ability to compete within a diverse  
global economy. To get there, we need to  
start with competitive infrastructure."The program targets projects that  
will be ready to start immediately,  
Goodyear explained."By focusing on timely projects in  
this way, we're making sure building  
takes place while the economic stimu-  
lus is necessary."Province-wide, 28 projects at  
postsecondary institutions will ben-  
efit from the funding, creating an  
estimated 2500 jobs for architects,  
engineers and tradespeople. Doug  
Horner, Alberta Minister of Advanced  
Education and Technology, explained  
that the long-term implications of the  
infrastructure is an indicator of the  
Government's strategy to re-prioritize  
the economy."Knowledge will be the next com-  
modity of the economy. If today  
you're selling oil, tomorrow you'll  
sell knowledge. That's where we want  
to go [...] to have a knowledge-based  
economy 20 or 30 years out. The  
investments that we make today will  
attract the kind of researchers that are  
going to create those next-generation  
economies," he said.The stimulus is broken up into two  
phases, where institutions can apply  
to have additional funding allocated  
for other projects in the fall. Although

PETE YEE

**JOINT EFFORT** The stimulus should  
produce long and short-term benefits.the funding is short-term, its positive  
implications for opportunity of inno-  
vation will last much longer, Goodyear  
explained."Canada is a land rich in resources,  
but there is no greater resource than  
our people. We are a dynamic nation  
of hardworking and inventive men  
and women," Goodyear said. "While  
the government can be part of the  
solution, it is the people of Canada  
who will drive our economy and our  
success."Stations should  
ease pressure  
on ETS busses**LRT ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**"We've been able to address some of  
the schedule adherence problems in  
the area because traffic conditions are  
so bad. The opening of South Campus  
has allowed us to solve that," said Ken  
Koropeski, Director of Service and  
Development with ETS, adding that  
the solution wasn't perfect, and that  
the city's bus system is still heavily  
over-extended."We still have lots of overload prob-  
lems in the city during peak hours.  
The other problem is we don't have  
additional operating budget this year  
to provide service to deal with these  
overloads. We're stretched."But Koropeski maintained that  
although the system's equipment is  
rather overworked, additions like the  
two new stations between South and  
North Campus, and the other two  
opening in 2010, will inevitably speed  
up transportation for both students  
and the residents in the area."The LRT at South Campus is really  
an investment in the future for the  
U of A, since the South Campus area  
hasn't been heavily developed yet,"  
Koropeski said."Because the LRT is now there, we  
will have some great transit for the  
entire area. In that regards, we're one  
step ahead of the University. We'll be  
there as it develops."CAMPUS  
CRIME BEAT

Compiled by Cody Civiero

**TAKING OUT THE TRASH**Nearing 8am on 1 May, Campus Security  
officers observed an intoxicated man  
inside a dumpster near International  
House, tossing items out of the garbage.  
He was stopped and identified as a regu-  
lar dumpster diver who had previously  
trespassed. He was warned and directed  
off campus.About 40 minutes later, CSS received  
a call from an East Campus Village resi-  
dent who reported a male had entered  
his residence and attempted to take his  
recyclables. The Edmonton Police were  
immediately contacted, and the same  
suspect was located near the residence.  
He was arrested by the EPS, who are pur-  
suing charges for breaking and entering.**HOT ON THEIR TRAIL**Shortly after 2am on 4 May, officers  
observed a group of non-affiliated youth  
enter HUB Mall. The group then exited  
the mall and ran across campus. They  
were located hiding under construction  
trailers near the Biological Science build-  
ing. All of them were identified and trans-  
ported off campus.**NEXT TIME, TRY RATE MY PROF**On the afternoon of 4 May, a profes-  
sor reported that unknown persons had  
written obscene language on her office  
door. It is believed that three students  
who recently failed their final exams were  
the culprits. CSS is still investigating, and  
the students involved are possibly facing  
Code of Student Behavior charges.**FIVE-FINGERED DISCOUNT**At approximately 4:30pm on 4 May,  
officers responded to a call in HUB after  
two youths were observed shoplifting at  
one of the businesses. The youths were  
located and identified. They were known  
to Campus Security and were arrested  
for trespassing. They were turned over  
to the Edmonton Police for outstanding  
warrants.**IRERFUL PARKING**Just past 7pm on 4 May, Parking Services  
reported that one of their staff was being  
harassed by a male who had just been  
issued a parking ticket. The angry man  
left the scene, but later returned when  
CSS attended. He allegedly uttered  
threats to the Parking Services employee  
and threatened him with a crowbar.  
Campus Security is still investigating, as  
the male may be a current student and  
Code of Student Behavior Charges could  
be laid.**LOSING YOUR PATIENTS**On 5 May at approximately 11am, CSS  
responded to the report of a suspicious  
female wandering in and out of offices in  
the Chemistry Building. Officers attended  
and located a non-affiliated female who  
was wearing nothing but a hospital  
gown. The woman had apparently gone  
missing from the Royal Alexandra hospi-  
tal earlier in the day. She was given a ride  
back to the hospital and left in the care  
of doctors.**MISSION: EMPLOYABLE**At 2pm on 5 May, CSS officers were on  
a foot patrol of CAB when they located  
a non-affiliated male wandering around.  
The male said he was looking for a  
job and provided officers with a fake  
University identification that was made  
from an old Residence Services card. He  
was identified, informed of the campus  
boundaries and directed off the grounds  
via public transit.



# School for the Deaf concerned about University’s plans for South Campus



SELENA PHILLIPS-BOYLE

**A MATTER OF LAND** Land near south campus is valued both as a playing field and a potential location for a new residence.

JONATHAN TAVES  
Deputy News Editor

The University of Alberta’s development plans for the South Campus may have to be redrawn after concerns were raised that the proposed new buildings would encroach upon the nearby Alberta School for the Deaf’s playing field.

The school is leasing the land from the provincial government, but the U of A would like to use the space for new student residences near the LRT line.

Sandra Mason, principal of the school, said she’s frustrated with how the University has gone about formulating its designs.

“[Through] our own investigation, we stumbled upon our field being included in the University’s plan for South Campus expansion,” she said. “But we were never consulted [...] The school’s students, staff, parents, and community stakeholders had almost no information.”

The tract in question is owned by the provincial government, which is the reason that the U of A didn’t initialize talks with the school.

“Our intent was never, during our negotiations with the government, to usurp [the school] in any way,” explained Bart Becker, U of A associate vice president of facilities and operations. “But they are a tenant, and we felt it was important that the government engage them and not us. We can’t make promises on behalf of the government.”

Mason said she would like to find

an equitable solution that will allow the school to keep its recreational space, but sees differing priorities as an obstacle.

“I think everyone defines win-win in a different way. All parties have agreed to work together. But it’s unfortunate that of all the parties, we’re the one that was included last, and we weren’t even invited,” she said.

Becker explained that the issue is complicated, and a variety of interests have been, and will continue to be considered before plans are finalized and building on the coveted area begins.

**“I think everyone defines win-win in a different way. All parties have agreed to work together, but it’s unfortunate that of all the parties, we’re the one that was included last.”**

**SANDRA MASON**  
PRINCIPAL, SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

“We thought we were negotiating with the landlord in good faith,” he said. “The whole idea of the redrawing of the property lines was to provide smarter development that would provide full access to transit for all users, the school, the University and the government.”

Mason also emphasized her support

of shared access to the newly opened South Campus LRT station.

“The LRT is public transportation, not U of A transportation. We are a centrally located school, and we serve students all over the city. We benefit from it as well,” she explained.

The Alberta School for the Deaf also provides facilities for the Tevie Miller Heritage program for people with speech and language difficulties. The community from both organizations was quick to express its concern over the proposed development.

“We had close to 300 people show up to our meeting,” Mason said, pointing out that the attendance was achieved with only one business day’s notice. “They, rightfully so, felt that they had been ignored and overlooked.”

The bid for the 2015 Universiade further complicates the issue, as the U of A administration wants both to increase capacity for student housing, and have the necessary infrastructure ready should the games be awarded to Edmonton.

“The Universiade bid will just put more pressure on getting the decision made,” Becker explained. “The only place we can accommodate [residences] now, currently, is on the south campus.”

Despite the time crunch, Becker sees a possibility for all interest groups to be satisfied.

“We need to quickly get our master plan finalized so that we can identify to all the communities around us, including the school, what that would look like. We can continue to have an open dialogue,” he said.

## Despite funding increase, tuition rates could still change

**BUDGET ♦ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

“Generally what happens is that we think about commitments we’ve made, but also money that we haven’t spent. So if there is anything on that where we can find flexibility to get some money, then it becomes an obvious place to look. That way there is no dislocation between spending that has already started,” she explained.

“After that, the next choice is a general cut across the institution while trying to maintain scholarships and bursaries as well as spending on library books. Then what happens is unfilled positions becomes the next obvious place a cutback would affect.”

Although any cutbacks to the University’s operations remain a function of unknown factors such as future oil prices, worries persist that if cutbacks do occur, tuition may no longer be indexed with consumer price indexes.

Tuition is the second highest source of revenue for the University, totalling \$205 million, or 25 per cent of its total income.

Beverly Eastham, VP (External) for the Students’ Union, points out that although Doug Horner, Alberta’s Minister of Advanced Education and Technology, has made no explicit indication of allowing floating tuition rates, rumours still persist within the

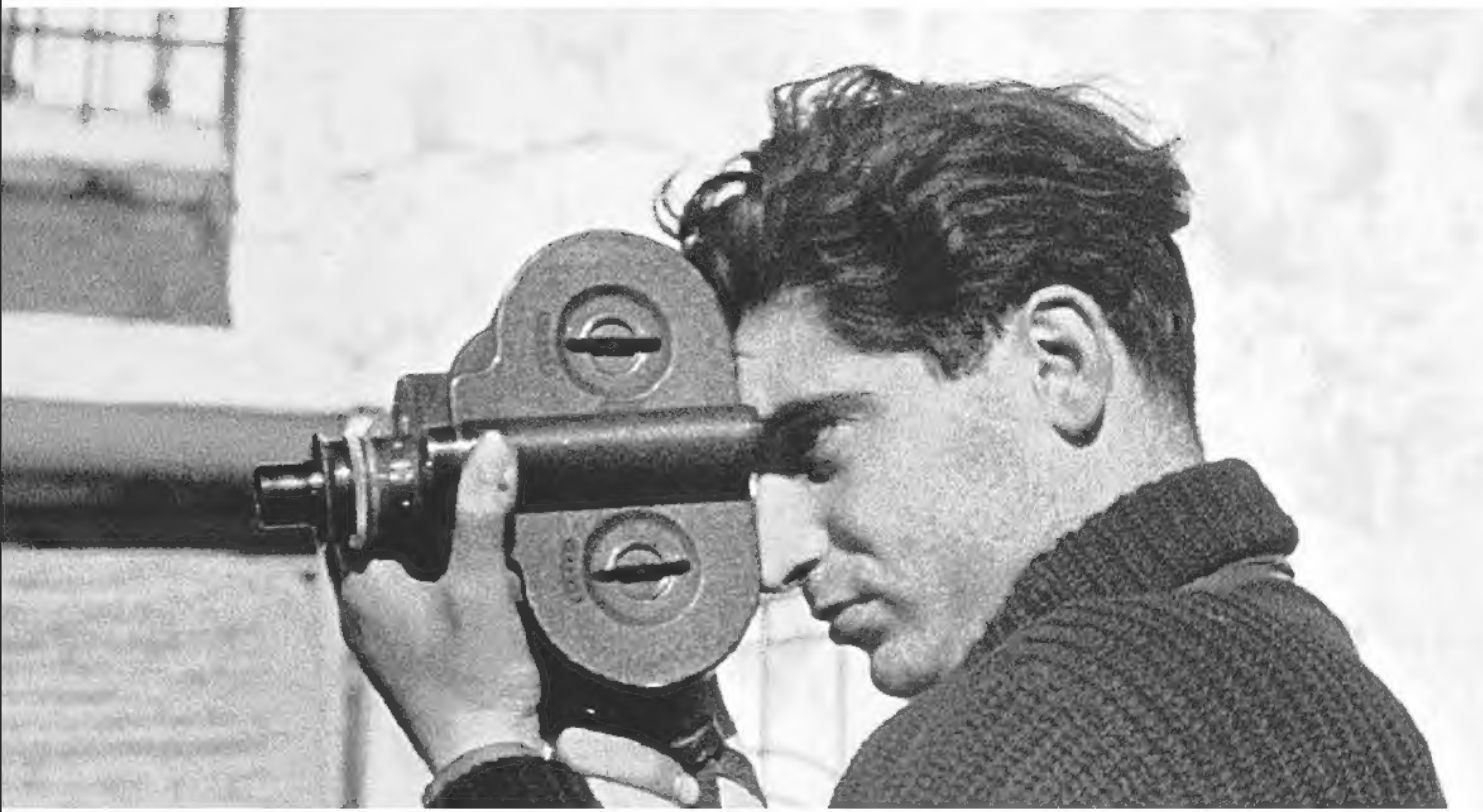
Ministry among the already tangible costs to students, other than just tuition.

She believes changes may be coming in the near future.

“We’ve been told from people in the Ministry, not by the minister himself, who has said he is not going to do anything with indexed tuition rates. [Floating tuition rates] is a possibility they are looking at for next year,” Eastham said.

“The easy way out for the government and university is to download the costs onto students. We have already seen this in a lot of different areas, such as with residence and deferred maintenance.”

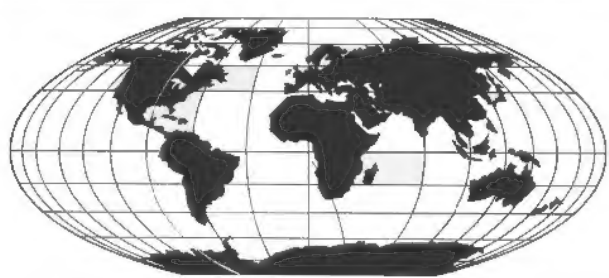
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**The Faculty of Arts Welcomes**



**Colleen Skidmore, Interim Dean until June 2010**



**FACULTY OF ARTS**  
UNIVERSITY OF ALBERTA



## Swine and Punishment

WELL LORD ALMIGHTY, WE CERTAINLY ARE IN such a very rough and turbulent time with swine flu, now, aren't we? I heard you can get it from shaking hands with an infected guy! No, hang on, you get it by eating pork that hasn't been properly basted! Wait, it comes from having sex with pigs! *Everyone stop having sex with pigs!* Hurry! The economy is crumbling! Hide inside your house! Purchase essential supplies! Save yourselves! Do it now!

Does this sound familiar? If so, then congratulations: you haven't been living under a rock for the last two weeks. Ever since the first sightings of the latest strain in Mexico on 24 April, the Western hemisphere has been all in a tizzy over the dreaded swine flu, the latest in a long line of foreign pandemics sweeping our culture that, under other circumstances, could easily qualify as a form of medical scaremongering.

Face the facts: we're alive and well in a culture of extreme hypochondria in reaction to mass media stimulation. As proof, and just in recent memory: Mumps. Bird flu. Anthrax. West Nile virus. SARS. Yellow fever. Meningitis. I'm not saying these didn't affect Canadians, or claim the lives of many unfortunate people, but when dealing with any of them, the response from the general populous has been over-dramatic, over-reactionary, and overly fearful.

We're right on the curly-tailed end of this latest epidemic, which has pretty much followed the standard operating procedure list set down by any of its predecessors. At this point, people are just starting to realize that perhaps they and all their living relatives won't get an obscure Mexican disease and they can rest easy. The one interesting factor this time around is how readily swine flu has been mocked and banded about, especially on the Internet. (Though the 'I have swine flu!!! OH NOES!' macro has become standard operating procedure for most satire sites with a modicum of rationality, which is a welcome change). Personally, I credit the silly name. It's hard to get worked up over a disease when it sounds like it came straight from an 1860s billiards hall by a pair of uppity British men.

Yes, diseases are a bad thing. Yes, precautions need to be taken. But the uninformed panic that has erupted just serves to make everyone nervous about a disease they didn't know about a week ago, in a country hundreds of miles away, under conditions they have no idea about. The *Edmonton Sun* of 28 April, for instance, devoted full-page spreads to tracking the spread of the disease, with contrasting and confusing headlines of 'Don't panic' and 'We will likely see some deaths.' This is not helpful; this is not even necessary for a disease that, when you read the sheepish fine print tucked away on the side of the page, had a mere two reported cases in all of Canada at time of publication. Two. Epidemic indeed. At this point, we Albertans are up to 26, which is something like a .0007 per cent infection rate, and how they can tell it's swine flu as opposed to plain old regular flu is beyond me. Maybe it makes you grow a curly little tail.

But the point is that it *might* become serious, so we all need to vaccinate, and stop cooking with pork, and follow every precaution immediately, because if we don't, *something bad could happen*. We don't know what, or how, or when, and most of us probably have no idea what the symptoms of swine flu actually are, but that shouldn't stop us from being exceedingly worried about absolutely everything, right?

There's something to be said for planning ahead, and there's a certain level of precautions that should be taken in a situation like this. Media images of horribly suffering patients, traveling passengers wearing fumigation masks, scary-looking needles, and ominously unhappy pigs are probably not consistent with the certain level. When it comes to diseases in this day and age, we jump the gun, we jump the shark, and we jump the pig, and then consult the Internet to see if leaping over a pig can cause swine flu. Studies have shown that nine out of ten bloggers don't think it's too much of a danger, but just in case, if you or anyone with the same name as you has leapt over a pig in the last ten days, then you should confine yourself in a sealed coffin in the center of the earth for the next eight weeks. At least until the next news-worthy medical panic rolls into town: weasel measles.

DAVID JOHNSTON  
Opinion Editor



KELSEY TANASIUK

## LETTERS FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Foul language is the poison of our university!

Knowing that I shall be condemned by my friends and not allowed eating privileges in SUB Cafeteria, I still feel it is necessary to retaliate and air my complaint against *Gateway* and *Casserole*. It is noted that I am a puritan and because of this I don't drink, smoke, swear, or date girls; well, at least I don't date girls (only women.)

My complaint is against some of the language used in our newspaper. I have a full years' subscription and take advantage of it by reading from page one to whatever, but I cannot get accustomed to the swearing. I will tolerate some swearing by use of the vocals but in print there is no excuse. The article by Brian MacDonald in *Casserole* of 23 January was finally it. It met all the standards set for a university article. It was one-sided and contained foul language. Was it really necessary to use the word "screwed"? We know what was intended and a journalist (of which he obviously is not) worth his weight in articles should not use nor find it necessary to use word-age of that sort.

But this is a university, a place of "higher" education and all facets of a "higher" education must be accepted, I guess.

GEORGE BELL  
25 February, 1969

### Foul language is the weapon of our university!

Once again the aggies are out in force heralding the arrival of spring with their square dancing, barbecues, tug-o-wars, etc on campus. Just as regularly we have the critics of the events standing around with their collective noses in the air declaring the festivities as "obnoxious indulgences" which are "repressed adolescent fantasies."

We would like to ask these self-professed paragons of virtue what they feel faculty weeks are for? Heaven forbid that they should generate any pride or camaraderie in the University. It is much safer for these people to protect their reserved lifestyle by criticizing those who wish to enjoy campus life.

We imagine they feel this apathetic outlook on life is viewed as "cool." We the undersigned will drink a toast at Bar None to the aggies in thanks for a damn entertaining week that must have required a lot of organization and effort.

To the deadbeats: screw 'em if they can't take a joke.

DAVID M LEWIS &  
JAMES HAMILTON  
5 April, 1977

### What a surprise: someone didn't like the Powerplant at one time

The SU may wonder why the Powerplant is consistently running a deficit, but if my experience there on Friday night is any indication of a typical night, then I for one am truly surprised that they have any business at all.

I was out with a party of 30 or so

people and we arrived at the 'plant somewhere between 5:30 and 6pm, placing our orders almost immediately. Unfortunately, that was to be the only swift thing about the evening.

Many of us didn't receive our food until sometime after 7pm—over an hour after we had ordered. A vegetarian friend of mine had ordered the veggie wrap, which, upon inspection, was found to contain actual pieces of chicken. This rather defeats the point of a veggie wrap, no?

Some of the other people we were with didn't receive their meals until 7:30pm, a full hour and a half after ordering, and as the server was passing out the food, one of the managers came over to inform our table that we would have to leave in ten minutes because of the Friday night show coming in. My group hadn't even had a chance to take a bite out of their food, and they were already being chased out. This doesn't seem the least bit fair to me.

I realize that the Powerplant may be understaffed, but there is absolutely no reason that getting a hamburger and fries should take over an hour. We may be lowly first- and second-years, but we're paying as much for our food as anyone else. To top off the experience, much of the food was cold, rendering it rather unappealing. Thoroughly disappointed with my dining experience, I stopped in SUB for a meal of pasta from L'Express to satiate my hunger. At least *that* was edible.

SU-owned restaurants and bars

can work wonderfully well; the day before this incident, I had stopped in for lunch with a friend at RATT, and we both received our hot food within 25 minutes of ordering. After a bad experience last year, I decided to give the Powerplant one more chance, but they just ran out of chances in my book.

ANNA RAWLUK  
7 February, 2007

*Letters from the Archives is a semi-regular feature where the Gateway runs historical letters that we feel are of particular importance—or are just kinda funny.*

*It's also the section we run when no one's sending letters to the editor because they're all off campus enjoying the beautiful summer sunshine and an empty half page would not look aesthetically pleasing. But hey—if anyone out there in Readerland wants to air their id in the usual letters section, then send us a note or angry rant at letters@gateway.ualberta.ca.*

*The Gateway reserves the right to edit letters for length and clarity, and to refuse publication of any letter it deems racist, sexist, libellous or otherwise hateful in nature. The Gateway also reserves the right to publish letters online.*

*Letters to the editor should be no longer than 350 words, and should include the author's name, program, year of study and student identification number to be considered for publication.*



# Creationism gets the evolving door



CODY CIVIERO

Even if it didn't fuel the same media circus, last Friday saw our generation's Scopes monkey trial come to a close, and religious dogmatism won out yet again. In a stupefying irony, an American federal judge ruled that a public high school history teacher violated the First Amendment by characterizing the Biblical account of creation as "superstitious nonsense" during a classroom lecture. The decision was the result of a legal battle initiated in 2007, after a student secretly recorded James Corbett's controversial statements in class. Note that the statement in question referred specifically to Biblical literalism, not the existence of God or other unfalsifiable claims. Maybe Corbett could have worded it more tactfully, but his dismissal needed to be said. Dispelling ignorance, rumours, and myths was precisely his job.

There are few other ways to categorize a claim that the earth is 6000 years old, or that Eve came from Adam's rib. The term "superstitious" is hardly even derogatory, given the context. If that infringes upon his constitutional rights, then so do fossil records and a staggering amount of other documented evidence.

Some of his statements, such as his association of church attendance and crime rates, were pointlessly inflammatory and irrelevant in the context

of his job. These are inappropriate, and I can sympathize with any high school student with the misfortune of being subjected to political preaching instead social teaching. However, that in no way diminishes the fact that a legitimate and necessary statement has been deemed "unconstitutional." The real violation of the First Amendment is the promotion of religious beliefs in the classroom. School systems are obligated to provide the most accurate information possible, even if it hurts their student's feelings.

**"Superstitious nonsense"—there are few other ways to categorize a claim that the earth is 6,000 years old, or that Eve came from Adam's rib.**

The American school system has been undergoing a battle over the wider issue of religion and science for some time. Last year, Bobby Jindal, the current governor of Louisiana and a frontrunner for the Republican presidential ticket in 2012, signed the Louisiana "Academic Freedom" Act, which allows instructors to undermine the theory of evolution under the pretense of protecting them from "intimidation." It all sounds well and good, until you factor in that there are no credible scientific critiques of evolution, the allegations of "intimidation" have been disproved, and that the bill was the brainchild of a think tank that promotes intelligent design.

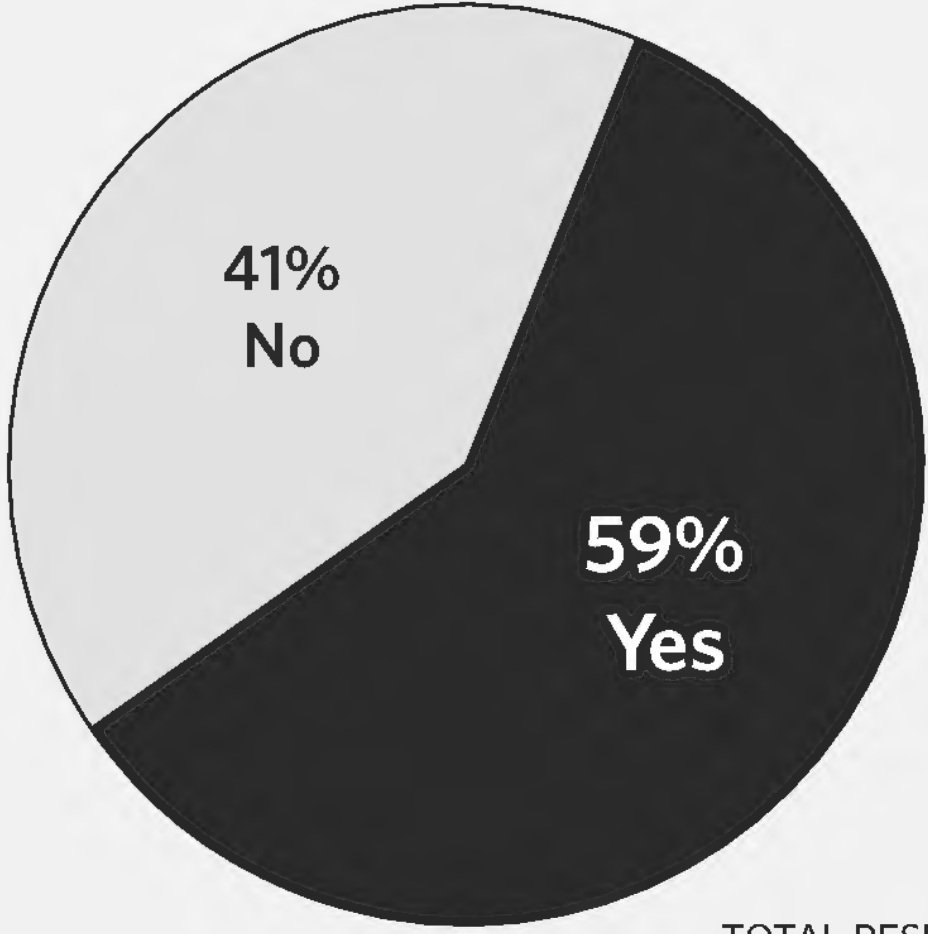
This unsupported talk of "intimidation" of anti-evolutionists would be amusing if not for the fact that the recent federal ruling will serve as a much more tangible form of coercion against instructors who merely attempt to do their jobs. The theory of evolution must be taught in schools without consideration for creationist myths—for one thing, the current field of biology depends on it. The workings of all living things cannot be adequately explained without an understanding of mutations, selection, and adaptations—all of which are baselessly rejected by creationism, and more subtly attacked by intelligent design. It should be taught because school children are in a vulnerable position, and it's a question of whether to teach a theory supported by overwhelming evidence or a theory that isn't science at all.

It's important for creationism and intelligent design advocates to realize that evolution is not a theory about the origins of life, but rather the development of life. The existence of God is a philosophical question and not a scientific one, and attempts to have the evidence match their conclusion is mass intellectual dishonesty, no matter what people claim the First Amendment permits.

Given the recent controversy involving Canadian science minister Gary Goodyear's non-stance on evolution, it's apparent that this issue isn't exclusive to the States. We need to be wary of attempts to smuggle junk science into our curriculum, and protect young minds from indoctrination of any kind. Sometimes truth and contentment are bitter adversaries, but for the good of society, we need to embrace the former.

## readerpoll

"Should the Edmonton City Centre Airport be closed down?"



TOTAL RESPONSES: 103

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION:  
"How often do you plan to use the new LRT extension to South Campus?"

**vote online at [thegatewayonline.ca](http://thegatewayonline.ca)**

## THE BURLAP SACK

Apparently, Jim Balsillie could offer the GDP of a small island nation and probably the blood of his first-born child to NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman, and that still wouldn't be enough to buy and relocate a failing team. The Research in Motion billionaire offered \$212.5 million US to the NHL to buy the Phoenix Coyotes after the team filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Tuesday, on the condition that he could move them to Southern Ontario. But for the third time, it looks like Bettman will interfere, as he said on Wednesday that the NHL doesn't "run out of cities." It should be noted for clarity that Bettman believes that Winnipeg and Quebec City are merely sizable towns.

Seriously though, why doesn't this guy want to move a starving franchise to a lucrative hockey area? Oh right, because he desperately, desperately doesn't want Canada to have another hockey team, so the league can focus their efforts diligently on attracting several dozen more fair-weather fans out in the desert. And to think I actually took that guy's side during the lock-out. Into the sack with you, so you can get smacked around like Blair Betts.

JONN KMECH

*The Burlap Sack is a semi-regular feature where a person or group who needs to be put in a sack and beaten is ridiculed in print.*

# Summertime at Sobeys Urban Fresh

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# WE ARE THE CARTOON HEROES

It's a crisp Saturday morning in Edmonton as the sound of a city awakening brings the first truly warm weekend of the season.

Words and Photos by  
Mike Kendrick

A crew of casually dressed workers has blocked off the street along 81 Avenue between Calgary Trail and Gateway Boulevard, and is in the process of sweeping the asphalt and etching an elliptical track in chalk along its length. Balloons and streamers adorn the front of Happy Harbor Comics, one of the street's main attractions, while the savoury aroma of barbeque fills the air. A crowd of curious and energized onlookers begins to assemble on the street, filing into the store as a legion of roller-skaters clad in brightly coloured spandex and superhero masks circles the track. Inside, a table stacked with free comic books and fabulous prizes becomes the main attraction.

"It's all my fault," laughs Jay Bardyla, owner of the Happy Harbor chain of Edmonton comic book stores.

He's of course referring to the stores themselves, which

celebrated their tenth anniversary on 2 May and coincided with the now-annual Free Comic Book Day. For Bardyla, it's pretty much Christmas.

Happy Harbor, named after the Justice League America's original headquarters, began as a small start-up a decade ago, and originally only catered to a group of about a dozen die-hard comic book fans when Bardyla shared a business space with a local liquor distributor. After moving to Jasper in 2000 to set up shop in an untapped market, he realized that his aspirations were larger than the small mountain town could provide, and came back to Edmonton in 2005. Now, Happy Harbor has expanded to three branded locations throughout the city, with a fourth joining the stable in the fall, and Bardyla knows he's been doing something right.



"I think [community integration]

is a positive step, moving towards the right direction for what you need to be as a store," he explains. "Certainly, you can be a store that just sells things, and that's fine, but I want a greater tether to my customers. I want them to feel not just like this is a place to go and pick up stuff. I want them to need to go there. I want them to feel that it is part of their lives, so in a way, what I'm helping to do is to say, 'I understand that this is an important part of your life, so let me contribute to it. Let me enhance it.'"

Beyond just being a business owner, Bardyla has been an active member of the Edmonton community, and a key participant in many of Alberta's pop culture events. Free Comic Book Day is just one of many annual festivals for proudly self-proclaimed geeks like himself that form the backbone of the province's niche festivals that cover

comics, science fiction and fantasy, anime, collectibles, and everything in between. While Edmonton has yet to launch its own comic-centric event, the Calgary Comics and Entertainment Expo (which took place on 25–26 April this year) is happy to take up the charge.

"Edmonton is the densest comic book market in Canada, and I think it's in the top-four in North America as far as the number of pop culture stores, so there has been, for years, a very strong and dedicated base, but no one's been putting on shows. So now that the shows are on, and people are like, 'Finally!' The shows every year are getting more mixed;

particularly this year at the Calgary Expo, there's a great mix of multimedia so it's not a pure comic expo," Bardyla says.

Although Edmonton isn't without its share of events—it hosts a bi-annual Pop Culture Fair as well as Animethon, Western Canada's longest-running anime festival—Bardyla explains that it's not a lack of demand keeping a comic expo out of the city, but a lack of business infrastructure.

"First of all, you need someone who's willing to sit down and do it. One of

the advantages that [Calgary Expo coordinator] Kandrix Foong had when he started up the show was that he was very well connected in the comic book and animation industry, so off the bat, he's got the contacts to get people in," he says.

"Calgary also has another advantage wherein the stores in Calgary are on a bit more friendlier terms.



The store owners, the businessmen, they're on friendly terms—at least on speaking terms. We don't have that in Edmonton, unfortunately, so that would also create an issue [...] Even with the shows that exist in Edmonton now, if there's one particular vendor sponsoring an event, the other vendors tend to stay away from it, so you will have that friction."

Despite these challenges, Bardyla is confident that the future has a place for a large-scale comic convention in Edmonton, as western Canada is quickly becoming the place to be for fans, vendors, and guests alike.

"It's getting to the point where the only place to go in Canada to do shows and events is Alberta because we're the only ones that actually

take care of the guests: we treat them well, we don't overwork them, we feed them, we water them, we give them breaks. The horror stories other people tell me, I'm just like, 'Seriously? Other conventions treat you guys like this?'"

This is exactly the sort of prairie courtesy that Bardyla says has made his own franchise such a success. Happy Harbor's Free Comic Book Day celebrations included much more than just the aforementioned free comics and a roller derby—it also featured celebrity guests, live music, and an after-hours party in the Jasper Avenue location's store. In addition to the annual event, the stores frequently hold meet-ups and hang-outs

like comic jams for local fans and artists. On top of all this, Bardyla says that his priority is on maintaining a solid, happy staff. It's a lot to juggle as a business owner and a comic book fan, but he feels it's a path that's allowed him to relate better to his customers and to the community as a whole.

"At this point, I'm really stricken between finding that balance as still being the big, gushing fanboy of comics that I am, and being the business owner that I need to be a lot of days.

It's challenging, but I'm kind of getting there. And I'll tell you this, man, I was a C-average student in school who went to college to become a cop and now I've got no business degree, nothing, trying to run everything off of common sense and kindness most of the time. That's how I operate, and it's been working out pretty well so far."



# A tisket, a tasket, a triple album from Joel Plaskett



## musicpreview

### Joel Plaskett

Thursday, 14 May at 7pm  
McDougall United Church  
(10025-101 St)  
\$20 at ticketmaster.ca

JONN KMECH  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

"I'm kind of obsessive. My mind won't shut off at night, is what it boils down to, and with this record—it's just a pile of words. There were so many words. I get kind of giddy and I'll start to just rhyme stuff."

Joel Plaskett might consider himself an imperfect perfectionist. Sitting at a Toronto pub chatting jovially about the construction of *Three*, his recently released triple disc solo album centred around the titular number, the folk rocker mentions how easily he got swept up in the concept of finding instances in life that revolve around the number three.

For example, he was 33 years old, so he initially recorded 33 songs that he eventually pared down to 30, with the additional three coming to appear on an upcoming EP called *Three More*. The album has three discs, the majority of the tunes have a title with the same word repeated three times, the lyrics deal with coincidences that occur in triplet, and most of the songs have Plaskett along with his fellow singer-songwriters Rose Cousins and Ana Egge backing him up with harmonies. Each third of the triple set deals with a different

topic of reflection: departure, loneliness, and return.

However, Plaskett eventually yanked himself back, as he didn't want to "become a slave to the concept" which is why the album tightened up to a final 27 pieces. While he was a stickler with the theme—even setting up parts of his studio in sets of three—the Halifax native specifically left in tiny flaws in the recordings to make his music more organic.

"The thing is, you can't get carried away," Plaskett explains. "I've recorded in situations where you've got a computer and you can make things perfect or whatever, but I've always liked things to breathe. I like idiosyncrasy. That's not to say that I don't toil over things and go 'this doesn't feel right' and then I don't put it out until it does. It's just a weird thing and it's highly subjective."

"Something can be flawlessly executed and perfectly in time and it can feel like a wet rag. It can feel, I don't know—cold [...] I'm getting more and more into the idea of getting into the moment with a recording and letting it be. If there's mistakes on it, hopefully it feels good and you leave them."

Even with the minor errors and blemishes that Plaskett specifically left lying around throughout his work, there were still times when he wondered if the entire thing was any good at all. Thankfully for his fans, he didn't make like a tortured artist and torch it all in a rage.

"It's like if you've been staring at a picture for too long and you know you start seeing the flaws in it, or you just can't tell if it's any good,"

he notes. "It's a tenuous relationship sometimes when you're making art and you're really attached and proud of it, and really excited and invigorated by it. Like, that's why I get out of bed, to rock it on tape, or on a stage. But then you're also fatigued by it, and you're like 'Oh my God, is this all I am?'"

Though he describes himself as a very music-centric person, that isn't all that Plaskett is. As he runs through a list of the other parts of his life, he's a devoted husband to his wife Rebecca, who is a graphic artist currently working on a new comic, and he loves his aging kitty cat White Fang. Plus, he says that he's a fan of pulp fiction.

"I love film noir, I love old movies. I love that stuff. I like fedoras," he laughs. "That's kind of why I like Elvis Costello, he'd always have lines that rang like old movie dialogue like 'Everytime I phone you, I just want to put you down.' I like stuff that sounds like if a dame said it to you in a movie, you'd be like, 'that's crazy.'"

And two things are particularly clear from talking to Plaskett: he's a wordsmith and he likes to talk. He sounds like just the guy who could turn a pile of words into something worth listening to.

"I like words and language, so I like the idea of communicating something and I like when people are like—I don't mind when people are mean or snarky because for me, it makes for more interesting dialogue and more of a conversation if someone challenges what you believe in." He laughs again, and clarifies: "But I don't like assholes."

# Buddy explores adolescence, masculinity, and rural Albertan culture

Darrin Hagen's new play takes a hilarious and poignant look at small-town life and friendship

## theatrepreview

### Buddy

Directed by Bradley Moss  
Written by Darrin Hagen  
Starring Jesse Gervais and Mark Jenkins  
5-24 May, Tuesday-Saturday 8pm,  
Sundays 2pm  
The Roxy Theatre (10708-124 St)  
\$21-27 at tixonthesquare.ca, or call  
Theatre Network at 780-453-2440

BETH STORHEIM  
Arts & Entertainment Writer

Darrin Hagen's most recent play, *Buddy*, examines friendship and courage in the face of societal rejection during adolescence, when one is very vulnerable, and often powerless. *Buddy* is about the struggle for survival of such pariahs, which in this hostile world, can never be guaranteed.

Hagen, whose previous plays include *The Edmonton Queen* and *The Neonancies: Hitler's Kickline*, has crafted a work that employs a familiar mixture of humour and tragedy, but this time is neither farcical nor wholly autobiographical. However, *Buddy* is loosely based on Darrin Hagen's teenage years, growing up in Rocky Mountain House.

In the play, one man [Jesse Gervais] reminisces about his teenage buddy who has recently died [Mark Jenkins], while searching through his archive of video footage from their time together during one summer in a small town near the Rocky Mountains of Alberta. The stage is framed with video cameras and screens (arranged by media designer Ian Jackson), creating an intimate setting where the audience can see this relationship forming and unfolding before them, as though they were actually present in the action.

*Buddy* is new territory for Jenkins and Gervais. Though the two Edmonton-based actors worked together before in *MacGregor's Hard Ice Cream & Gas* in 2008, it was a piece of cake compared to *Buddy*, whose script was still in development when rehearsals began.

"It's a new work," says Jenkins. "We had to develop our own process [with the audio-visual elements], and then we had to learn how to use that process [...] and now we're getting to that stage that every other production has been in. But leading up to that, it was completely unique. And it was [very different from] *MacGregor's*, [which was] a more traditional play."

Working with director Bradley Moss and Darrin Hagen (who's also the sound designer for the



production) made the process easier, both Gervais and Jenkins say. Though most plays are shaped almost solely by a director, the cast of *Buddy* had the added benefit of having the playwright present for many of the show's rehearsals.

"[Hagen's] great, he's super unbelievably collaborative and very giving, and [...] trusts his performers. It really shows in his writing because [...] he allows us to find our own way within

the text. He's also there to tell us what it really means, as well."

And, according to Gervais, Moss has "great instincts [...] He knows when we're doing our job. And he holds us to that. And he doesn't take any bullshit!"

Even with the guidance of both the playwright and a director, a lot of close collaboration took place between Jenkins, Gervais, Moss and Hagen.

"It made me feel comfortable that I

could offer what I was thinking about my character, or with anything to do with the production [and] at the very least it would be listened to and evaluated," added Jenkins.

Despite the elements of tragedy, though, Hagen blends a sense of humour into the narrative.

"It's funny," says Gervais. "So funny, and it's wonderfully touching. It'll be a visual treat! People won't see anything [else] like it on Edmonton stages."



The School for Energy and the Environment (SEE) invites you to attend the first presentation in our

## SEE THE RESEARCH AT WORK SEMINAR SERIES:

"Oil Sands Tailings and Water Use—Some New Approaches to Old Issues"  
Dr. Julia Foght (Biological Sciences) and Dr. Selma Guigard (Civil and Environmental Engineering)

This presentation will provide a non-technical introduction to two research projects currently underway at the University of Alberta, related to water use in the oil sands industry. The first area of research investigates a biological approach that uses natural microbial activities to accelerate recovery and re-use of water in existing tailings ponds. The second area of research investigates a chemical approach that uses supercritical fluid extraction as a potential 'waterless' method of extracting bitumen from oil sands, hence reducing water demand and generating less tailings.

**Date:** Tuesday, May 12, 2009

**Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:30 pm

**Location:** Stollery Executive Development Centre, Room 5-40 A&B, Business Building, University of Alberta

**Registration:** Please RSVP online at <http://www.see.ualberta.ca>



Questions?: School of Energy and the Environment (SEE): [uasee@ualberta.ca](mailto:uasee@ualberta.ca)



In a bout of sheer stamina and awesomeness, Prince Rogers Nelson performed three consecutive nights from 25-27 March on Jay Leno to promote his two new albums *Lotus Flow3r* and *MPLSoUND*.

Here at the Gateway, we appreciate that kind of resilience from those who entertain us, and also from our writers. Stop by and check out our next summer section meeting on 21 May at 5pm. No name change required.

## Gateway A&E

Exhibiting dangerous levels of funk since 1910.



### gateway student journalism society

The Gateway Student Journalism Society is seeking two student-at-large members for its board of directors effective immediately. Applicants should be undergraduate students who are not members of Students' Council, General Faculties Council, the University Board of Governors, or the University Senate.

The Gateway Student Journalism Society Board of Directors meets approximately once per month and is responsible for the overall direction of the society, but not for any element of the editorial content of the Gateway.

Applications should be sent to  
Gateway Business Manager Asia Szkudlarek at  
[biz@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:biz@gateway.ualberta.ca) on or before February 29.

For more information, please contact the  
Chair of the Board of Directors at [gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca](mailto:gsjs@gateway.ualberta.ca)  
or visit [gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca](http://gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca)



## Love takes a gritty, raw look at intimacy

Butterflies in the stomach, weak knees, and googly eyes are Hollywood clichés that Patricia Cornelius refuses to touch with a twenty foot pole in *Love*

### theatre review

#### Love

Directed by Trevor Schmidt  
Written by Patricia Cornelius  
Starring Amber Borotsik, Rob Van Meehan, and Natascha Girgis  
Runs until 10 May at 8pm  
The Third Space (11516-103 St)  
\$15-20 at [northernlighttheatre.com](http://northernlighttheatre.com)

MIKE DADURAL  
Arts & Entertainment Staff

When many of us try to imagine what falling in love would be like, we tend to picture some elaborate Hollywood-esque setup where two people meet, fall for each other, and live happily ever after. But it's usually more difficult to picture the stuff that happens in the middle before we reach that happy ending.

*Love*, written by award-winning playwright Patricia Cornelius, tells the story of ex-con Tanya (Natascha Girgis), prostitute Annie (Amber Borotsik), and heroin addict Lorenzo (Rob Van Meehan) as they try to survive in a bleak city. Facing the dangers that come with living on the streets as social outcasts, the only thing that keeps the three alive is their capacity to love each other. But as time passes, they begin to re-assess those feelings, which ultimately leads

to the question: what is love?

What *Love* does best is depict how the emotion can manifest itself even in something as ugly and dark as the lives of three derelicts. Many people might not expect to see these characters fully understand what love truly is, let alone actually experience it. It's never as easy as Hollywood makes it out to be and it's good to see that this play tries something a little more dark and raw when dealing with affection.

of emotions, makes the characters very believable.

Director Trevor Schmidt did a wonderful job of creating smooth transitions, which kept the audience in the moment. Despite the fact that most people wouldn't find it easy to relate to prostitutes, drug addicts, or ex-cons, the characters manage to draw the audience in deeply enough that disconnection feels impossible. The use of warm colours in the lighting heighten the mood by creating a surprisingly welcoming room within the cold, desolate city setting.

The play portrays the different kinds of love we all experience in life and helps challenge our perceptions of what those feelings actually mean. During one pivotal moment, Tanya explains to Lorenzo what it means to be truly in love with someone, mentioning that even though relationships are still filled with so much trouble that you shouldn't take it and should keep moving along, all that matters when you're in love is your ability to keep that endearment with someone even after the shit hits the fan.

With a simple script, amazing acting, astute direction, and an engaging story, *Love* deviates from most people's typical notions of what it means to be in love. The beauty of *Love* is that it shows us what love truly is and how it can occur in the oddest of places.

**Despite the fact that most people wouldn't find it easy to relate to prostitutes, drug addicts, or ex-cons, the characters manage to draw the audience in deeply enough that disconnection feels impossible.**

The actors help push the story along and make it intimate and emotional. The silences between them are sometimes so tense that they hold their breath, forcing the audience to hold theirs, too. This ability of the actors to connect with the crowd and maintain that bond through such a variety



# U of A wrestling hires former athlete Dawkins as new coach

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor

Having been without a full-time coach firmly in place for nearly five months, the University of Alberta wrestling team finally have their man. It was announced in late April that Golden Bears alumnus and former Lakehead Thunderwolves coach Owen Dawkins will officially sign on as men's and women's wrestling head coach on 1 June, 2009.

For the former OUA Head Coach of the Year and CIS gold medal winner in 2001, the opportunity to return to his old stomping grounds and lead the charge was too intriguing to pass up.

"It's a chance for a new start, a chance for a challenge," Dawkins explained. "It's a long-standing program, and this is a good opportunity for me to put my mark on the program as well. I think mostly, though, [the reason I came back is] because this is where I graduated from and this is a good chance to get back with the program."

**"I have to maintain the early level of the program and the only other option is to go up. Vang Ioannides has set such a high bar that you don't have much of a choice—you can't lower the bar, otherwise it's a failure."**

OWEN DAWKINS  
U OF A WRESTLING HEAD COACH

Dawkins' hiring will bring back some stability to the position that hasn't been seen since long-time leader Vang Ioannides stepped down at the beginning of this year. Interim coach Anthony Kulak had been at the helm since late January, after former Olympian Gia Sissaouri—who was hired full-time as Ioannides' replacement—stepped down after just two weeks to return to active competition.

Though the challenge of facing Canada West opponents like the Calgary Dinos and the Simon Fraser Clan pose significant obstacles for a young Alberta squad, his resumé speaks for itself—while at Lakehead, both teams always found themselves in contention for a medal at nationals, with the men's team never finishing lower than fifth-place at a CIS final. Despite results being hit or miss for both the Bears and Pandas sides



MIKE LAVOIE, LAKEHEAD ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT

**COMING HOME** Former Golden Bears wrestler Owen Dawkins returns to his alma mater as coach.

during the 2009 season, Dawkins feels confident about the group that he's about to inherit.

"There's already a solid foundation set," he said. "But it's challenging because I don't have much of an option—I have to maintain the early level of the program and the only other option I have is to go up. [Vang Ioannides] has set such a high bar that you don't have much of a choice—you can't lower the bar, otherwise it's a failure. So you have to raise it from whatever he's set already."

That being said, however, Dawkins is aware

that there are key areas that both sides need to quickly improve on at practices beginning in the fall in order to raise said bar. When asked about this, the new Alberta head coach didn't mince words.

"I think overall, we need to improve our skill level and experience," Dawkins replied.

Dawkins will see his first action as head coach, and get his first real assessment of the team, when U of A Wrestling returns to action in late November at the University of Calgary Invitational.

## Bears' Hinse and Rottier selected in CFL Draft

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor



The 2009 Canadian Football League Draft proved to be a significant one for the Bears football, as two offensive line stand-outs were taken within the first eleven picks.

Coming into this past Saturday, once again ranked atop the lists of most Canadian college scouts, Alberta offensive tackle Simeon Rottier was chosen first-overall by the Hamilton Tiger Cats. The selection of the Westlock, Alberta native was an historical one for the program, as it marked the first time that a Golden Bear had ever been selected in the highly-coveted top spot.

Being chosen by Hamilton is just the icing on what has been a tremendous year for Rottier. Earlier this year, the fourth-year Bear was one of only two Canadians invited to play in the East-West Shrine Bowl in Houston, featuring a large contingent of NCAA football players.

Meanwhile, at the beginning of the second round, the Edmonton Eskimos decided to keep their focus local, selecting Bears offensive lineman Gordon Hinse with the eleventh-overall pick, and promptly signing him to a four-year deal. The Edmonton native has made his mark in his short time with Alberta, earning a Canada West All-Star selection in 2007 and being named an Academic All-Canadian.

Golden Bears head coach Jerry Friesen felt immediate elation upon hearing the news of his players being drafted, and feels that such high selections say a lot about the program, despite mediocre results in the past few years.

"It reflects positively upon the University of Alberta football program that these two individuals have had good coaching from everyone on staff, as well as the hard work that they've done in order to get to this position," Friesen commented. "Both are outstanding gentleman and are outstanding student-athletes—not only are they great guys on the football field, but they're great within the football program with the other guys."

"This is huge for the program. It shows that we are doing some things right; we just have to make sure that we continue to develop as a football program."



FILE PHOTO: LAUREN STIEGLITZ

**STILL SMILING** Joel Schmuland can now add CIS' top male athlete to his credit.

## Schmuland picks up BLG honours

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor

After a season that saw his team go on a magical run, on top of capturing nearly every personal accolade imaginable, recently graduated Bears volleyball attacker Joel Schmuland can now add the most significant individual honour to his trophy case—CIS Male Athlete of the Year.

At the annual Borden Ladner Gervais (BLG) Awards ceremony held in Toronto in late April—honouring the year's top performers from each gender across all varsity sports—the "Bearded Menace" received the award, beating out a field that included names like Laval football star

and recent draft pick of the Toronto Argonauts, Étienne Légaré, and Saint Mary's hockey's Marc Rancourt. In recognition of his achievements, Schmuland received a \$10 000 scholarship towards attending a Canadian grad school of his choosing, as well as a trophy and commemorative ring.

In a statement on CIS' website, the fifth-year volleyballer remarks that "it's hard to believe all the good things that keep coming my way this year," crediting his teammates and coaching staff for the combined efforts that led to his collective success.

This win caps off what has simply been a banner year for the Calgary, Alberta native that saw him win his third CIS Championship on his home

court (a Golden Bears record), after going undefeated with the U of A throughout the season and playoffs. On top of that, he has swept several other titles, including both Canada West and CIS men's volleyball MVP awards.

Schmuland's win also marks the first time that a Bears athlete has walked away with CIS' highest individual prize for males, and only the second time that an Alberta athlete has held the prestigious honour. Since the inception of the awards back in 1993, only former Pandas volleyball standout Jenny Cartmell can lay claim to an Athlete of the Year title, which she earned after a strong showing in 1999/00.





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## SPORTS EDITOR

The Gateway is accepting applications for the position of Sports Editor\*\* for the 2009/2010 publishing year.

The term runs to 30 April 2010. The full-time paid portion of the job runs from mid-August to the end of April. Three more issues of the Gateway will be produced over the summer months. The Sports Editor will be expected to train on these issues for an honorarium of \$100/issue. In its full-time capacity, the salary for the position is \$1281.88\* per month.



Applicants should submit a covering letter, resumé and portfolio to **Gateway Business Manager (Asia Szkudlarek, 780-492-6669, biz@gateway.ualberta.ca)**. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for interviews.

# THE GATEWAY

\* Pay will be adjusted for inflation over the summer and may increase.  
\*\* Complete job description (subject to change) is available at [gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca](http://gsjs.gateway.ualberta.ca)

# Bears basketball brings in eight new recruits for 2009/10 season

NICK FROST  
Managing Editor

Bears basketball head coach Greg Francis has recruited eight new players for next season. Among the new faces, the two most anticipated players that will suit up in 2009/10 are Harry Ainlay Titans graduate Jordan Baker, and Canada U-18 centre Rob Dewar.

Baker, the son of current Pandas basketball general manager Trix Baker and three-time Golden Bears basketball MVP Doug Baker, has been regarded as one of the top high school prospects in Alberta. Averaging nearly 20 points per game and helping to keep the Titans atop the Alberta boys' 4A high school rankings, the 6'7" guard will be looked to for his shooting ability and transition game.

Dewar, meanwhile, brings a wealth of experience to the floor despite being a month shy of his 18th birthday. The 6'11" Guelph, Ontario native recently spent time with Canada Basketball's



SUPPLIED: CANADA BASKETBALL

**EASTERN INFLUENCE** Coach Greg Francis is already exercising recruiting power.

National Elite Development Academy, and participated with the national junior team at the 2008 FIBA Americas Championship.

Other recruits include transfers

Jamaal Bucknor (brother of former NCAA baller Jermaine Bucknor), Khas Tokar, and Brett Kallio, as well as provincial team members Todd Bergen-Henengouwen and Ken Otieno.

## "Canada's Team" idea is xenophobic tripe

JOHN  
KEOHANE



Sports  
Commentary

As the playoff herd begins to thin out, and the legitimate contenders are separated from the inadequate pretenders (thanks for coming out, Columbus and St Louis), an ugly monster threatens to once again rear its ghastly head: the "Canada's Team" phenomenon.

Each and every postseason, the lone remaining squad that houses its players within the confines of our spacious borders is designated as the last great hope—the sole pious defender of Canada's innate hockey superiority. Never mind that a vast majority of the athletes in every lineup were sired north of the 49th parallel; to many fans, the only acceptable outcome revolves around one of the six Canadian teams' players laying their sweaty palms on pro sports' most venerated trophy.

While I admire (sort of) the nationalistic intent of this sentiment, the entire concept of rooting for a just any team on the basis of xenophobic pride constitutes two monumental sporting sins: bandwagon jumping and, more grievously, rooting against the interest of your hometown/favourite team.

Bandwagon jumping is routine: it

simply involves identifying a potentially successful team, and electing to cheer for them on the basis of their imminent glory. Of course, many bandwagonites—yeah, I just made that word up—will assert that they have, in fact, identified with said team since they were swimming around in their father's testicles. That's fine; there's really nothing wrong with trying to stir up a zeal for the playoffs by developing a personal bond. Otherwise, the experience is a septic, detached phenomenon, with everyone reduced to a dispassionate observer.

Just be sure that any wagon-hopping is limited to one postseason and that, in the event of a championship victory, you keep the celebration to a minimum—remember, this is a surrogate team and you're essentially a foster parent. Cheer for any and all of these teams at your own peril: sure, you might get to gloat about banners, but any sporting credibility you may have had will be permanently tarnished.

The second, and more sinister aspect of the "Canada's Team" movement is truly galling: actively rooting against your hometown team. What's that you say? That this is impossible, given that your team (the Oilers, Flames, Canadiens, Senators, or Leafs) has been eliminated? That you're merely acting in the best interest of the nation, as if the six Canadian teams are part of a hockey conglomerate, with one common aim? Alas, this is not the case.

You see, the six Canadian teams are actually involved in two leagues: the NHL, and the BCDFC (Biggest Canadian Douchebag Fan Contest). In the BCDFC, teams compete for fan bragging rights, striving to win the Stanley Cup in the name of local honor. In the event that a Canadian team does win Lord Stanley's mug, hometown fans are then able to shove this in the face of competing fans for the next five decades.

For instance, had the Oilers squeezed out a Game 7 victory against the Hurricanes, I automatically would've been entitled to spew vitriol in the face of any other Canadian fan, up to and after my death. Conversely, had Calgary staved off the Lightning in 2004, Flames followers would be at liberty to stick commemorative t-shirts down my craw at will. The point is, cheering for Vancouver is essentially cheering for your team—and your fellow fans—to be mocked ceaselessly, all for the two weeks of fleeting glory a Canadian Cup win would deliver.

Thus, I'm content with leering from afar: envious of Canucks fans and their potential euphoric victory, but secure in the knowledge that I never wavered in my allegiance to the Oil—content in the knowledge that someday, somehow, we'll win a Cup together, and that I remained faithful to my first hockey love, unaffected by the allures of a hockey trophy wife. I mean, how long can a team go between cups?

Shit, that's right. Sorry, Toronto.

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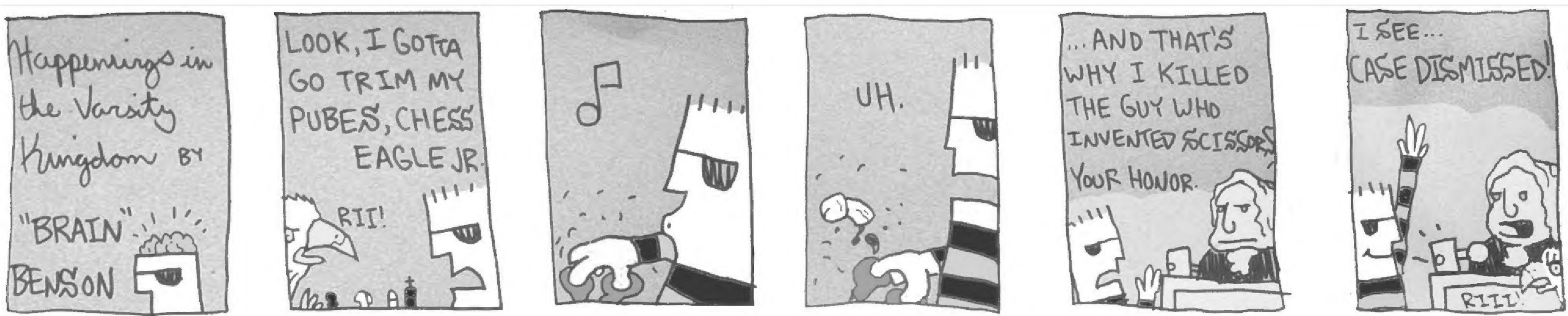
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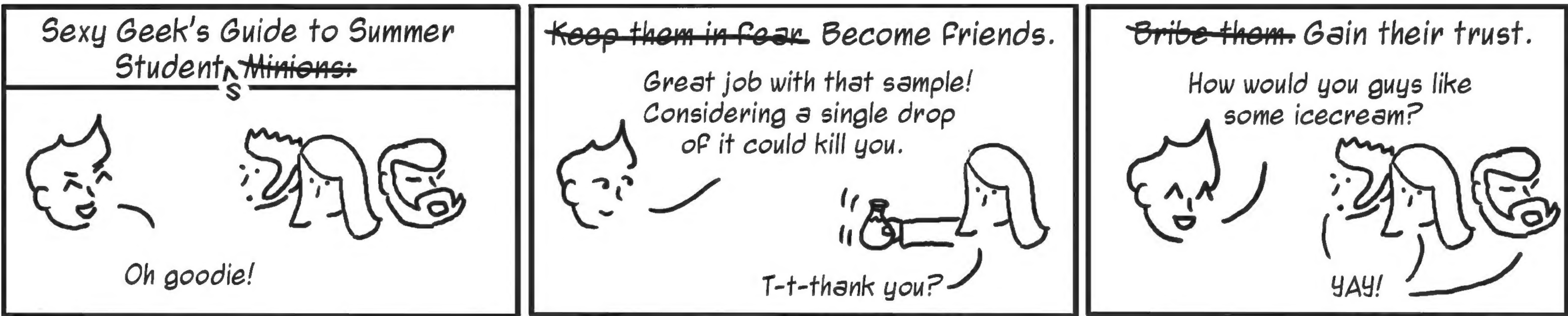
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**AND FINALLY**

The current source of my most horrible nightmares: SUB's never-ending summer dance festivals. It's not the ridiculous names (Superdance, Dancecan, FestoDance) or the overbearing mothers crowding the elevators—oh no. It's the grotesque painted faces of the dancers that haunt me, like soulless clowns parading past me as I order my lunch. [SUB OF THE WEEK: Cold Cut Trio]





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